

Required Science Evaluation Tool
Basal Instructional Materials

Provided by the Publisher	ISBN		Publisher -		Provided by the Publisher
	Type -	Author -			
	Copyright -	Edition -	Readability -		
	Course -		Grade(s) -		
Teacher Edition ISBN if applicable					

Overall Recommendation:

☐ **Recommended as Basal**

Overall Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

if this box is not checked, the evaluators have
chosen NOT recommend as basal

CRITERIA

This basal resource ...

A. Encompasses KY Content Standards & Grade Level Expectations

☐ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

☐ Text is designed to be used in an elective course outside the Program of Studies

1) Includes the 7 Big Ideas of science to the following extent:

a) Structure and Transformation of Matter	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Little	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
b) Motion and Forces	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Little	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
c) The Earth and the Universe	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Little	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
d) Unity and Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Little	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
e) Biological Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Little	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
f) Energy Transformation	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Little	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
g) Interdependence	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Little	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

2) Addresses content-specific enduring understandings from the related Program of Studies standards. ☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

3) Addresses content-specific skills and concepts from the related Program of Studies standards. ☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

4) Content addressed is current, relevant and non-trivial ☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

5) Provides opportunities for critical thinking/reasoning ☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

6) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Specific strengths-which areas/concepts are covered exceptionally well?
- Specific weaknesses-which areas/concepts would likely require supplementing?

B. Functionality & Suitability

☐ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

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1) Suitability

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Should be suitable for use with a diverse population and is free of bias regarding race, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, social and/or geographic environment; is free of stereotyping or bias of any kind.

2) Content quality

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little ☐ N/A

- Free from factual errors
- Content is presented conceptually when possible—more than a mere collection of facts
- Content included accurately represents the knowledge base of the discipline
- Theories/scientific models contained represent a broad consensus of the scientific community

3) Connections to Literacy

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

Note: may apply to either student or teacher editions

- Employs a variety of reading levels and is grade/level appropriate
- Contains pre, during, post reading activities
- Provides opportunities for summarizing, reviewing, and reinforcing vocabulary skills and concepts at multiple levels of difficulty for a variety of learning styles.
- Student text provides opportunity to integrate reading and writing
- Uses vocabulary that is age and content appropriate
- Focuses on critical vocabulary vs. extensive lists
- Identifies key vocabulary through definitions in both text and glossary
- Engaging text- does the text facilitate learning?
- Does understanding the text require having performed the imbedded activities?

4) Connections to Technology

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Integrates technology and reflects the impact of technological advances
- Uses technology in the collection and/or manipulation of authentic data

5) Support for Diverse Learners

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides support for ESL students
- Provides support for differentiation of instruction in diverse classrooms
- Note: may apply only to teacher edition

6) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

C. Supports Inquiry and Skill Development

☐ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Promotes Inquiry, research and Application of Learning

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities for inquiry and research that includes activities such as self-selecting topics, formulating authentic questions, gathering information, researching resources, observing, interviewing, and evaluating information, analyzing and synthesizing data and communicating findings and conclusions.
- Requires students to use higher-level cognitive skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, etc.)
- Provides activities and projects for students to deepen their knowledge and cultivate and strengthen problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Provides opportunities for application of learned concepts.
- Uses a variety of relevant charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, and other illustrations to invite and motivate students to engage in discussion, problem solving, and other high-order thinking skills.

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- Emphasizes conceptual understandings that invite students to predict, conclude, evaluate, develop and extend ideas to support reasoning.

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Skill Development

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Provides opportunities to make sense of data
- Provides opportunities for critical thinking and reasoning (analyze arguments, distinguish fact/opinion, recognize bias)
- Provides opportunities to examine a range of types of evidence
- Contains embedded activities (or extensions) that emphasize use of technology for problem solving

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

D. Supports Best Practices of Teaching and Learning

☐ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Engages Students

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes content geared to the needs, interests, and abilities of students
- Engages and motivates students using components such as real-life situations, simulations, experiments, and data gathering.
- Includes information and activities that assist students in seeing relevance of concepts (where appropriate) to their own lives and experiences
- Provides a variety of strategies, activities, and materials to enhance student learning at the appropriate learning levels
- Activities are truly congruent to the concepts addressed, not merely correlated

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

2) Uses Assessment to Inform Instruction

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Includes multiple means of assessment as an
- integral part of instruction
- Provides evaluation measures in the teacher edition that supports differentiated learning activities
- Embedded assessments reflect a variety of Depth of Knowledge levels

Note: may apply to either teacher or student edition

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards

E. Has an Organization/ Format that Supports Learning and Teaching

☐ Strong Evidence
☐ Moderate Evidence
☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Organizational Quality

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Print and/or electronic materials present minimal barriers to learners
- Presents chapters/lessons in an organized and logical sequence
- Provides clearly stated objectives for each lesson.
- Uses text features (e.g., titles, headings, subheadings, review questions, goals, objectives, space, print, type

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size, color) to enhance readability.

- Makes use of various forms of media (e.g., CD's, recordings, videos, cassette tapes, computer software, web-based components) as either student or teacher resources
- Includes clear, accurate, appropriate and clearly explained illustrations and/or graphics that reinforce content standards.
- Incorporates a glossary, footnotes, recordings, pictures, and/or tests that aid pupils and teachers in using the book effectively
- Uses grade-appropriate type size
- Included media are durable, easy to use and have technical merit
- Construction appears to be durable and able to withstand normal use

2) Essential Components (beyond student and teacher text)

☐ Strong ☐ Moderate ☐ Little

- Items identified as essential components support the learning goals and concept coverage of the basal

3) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.

F. Has available Ancillary/ Gratis Materials

Note: The decision whether to recommend or not recommend this resource as a basal should not be influenced by Section F

☐ Strong Evidence

☐ Moderate Evidence

☐ Little or No Evidence

1) Ancillary/Gratis Materials

- Coordinates teacher resources easily with student material (e.g., accompaniments included, student pages shown, instructional technology indicated).
- Are well-organized and easy to use
- Provide substantive learning opportunities and are congruent with student learning goals
- Provide opportunities for high-level thinking, assessment, and/or problem solving

2) Strengths, Weaknesses, Comments:

- Reviewers may provide page numbers to point out specific strong examples for individual evaluation standards.